

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission
Minutes of October 21, 2013 Meeting at Town Hall, Tiverton, RI

Convened 7:00 p.m. Present: Dennis Culberson, Brian Janes, Ginger Lacy, Gayle Lawrence, Garry Plunkett, Phil Schuyler, and Martin VanHof. Guests: Seena Franklin and Councilman Gerlach

Administrative Announcements and Reports.

- **The September 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved (motion Lawrence/2nd Culberson).**
- **Culberson gave the treasurer's report, accepted (Plunkett/Schuyler)**
- **Proposed FY 2015 TOSC budget request reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding Council desire for "granulariity" (smaller, more focused line items), and whether TOSC budget lines should be adjusted to better reflect changing expenditure patterns, as well as looking forward to a possible future transfer of the Ft. Barton historic area to a Town historic commission for management responsibility. Motion carried unanimously (Lawrence/Janes) to submit the below budget request and address potential changes to TOSC budget lines in the January 2014 Annual Report.**

Open Space (Acct no. 6210-8015) Total \$3,400.00

**Weetamoo Woods trails maintenance including trailhead
and 1/4 mile of Eight Rod Way brush hogging 1,400.00**

**Weetamoo Woods meadow maintenance
(ten acres and 1/2 mi. of stone fence) 1,000.00**

**High Hill Point brush clearing/invasive control/management plan
600.00**

Reprinting Weetamoo Woods trail guides 400.00

**Fort Barton and Fort Barton Woods (Acct no. 6210-8025) Total
\$3,200.00**

Fort Barton Woods bridges, stairways and trails maintenance 800.00

**Fort Barton redoubt (tower, 3-acre earthworks, flags, mowing)
1,000.00**

Fort Barton observation tower - repaint 1,000.00

Purchase brush cutter 400.00

- **Other announcements were made as listed in the agenda.**

Stewardship Reports.

Weetamoo Woods. Plunkett reported trail clearing done, and planned community service work with two high school students. Josh Lebreux has been given the job of clearing north stone wall of the

meadow.

High Hill Point. The management plan has been submitted to CRMC for review.

Highland Woods. Plunkett reviewed a potential trail plan that would access the Ft. Barton redoubt and the trails of Ft. Barton Woods. Various loops/connections were discussed. More exploring will be required in the southeast corner to see if a connection to the Ft. Barton red trail might be possible there.

Fort Barton Woods. Schuyler reported some clearing needed on parts of a blue trail. Plunkett reported that no response was forthcoming regarding high school involvement in the repair of stairways coming out of Fort Barton onto the red trail, and that he was meeting with Jonathan Peckham this week to review the job.

Pocasset Ridge. Plunkett reported scouting for connecting the two cart paths for a loop trail continues.

New Business. Lacy distributed copies of the draft of the Fort Barton Trail Guide, a complete revision to replace the guide originally printed c. 1970. This revision is in the same general format as the Weetamoo Woods guide, with new emphasis on Fort Barton Woods. It was decided to remove the “place holder” that looks ahead to future use of Highland Woods. An expenditure of approximately \$105 to purchase the minimum order of 1000 copies was approved unanimously (Lacy/Lawrence). This will be a sufficient supply pending a revision when Highland Woods is opened to public use.

Lacy noted her unsuccessful attempt to get TOSC trail maps on the Town web site moved to the “local attractions” page, and Councilman Gerlach offered to assist with that.

Old Business. Plunkett provided an update on the idea of a historical sign and/or some form of monument to honor Sachem Weetamoo in Weetamoo Woods. He emphasized the importance of careful research and accuracy in any description of her place in history. He also described an opportunity to consult with a Native American who is highly respected for his knowledge of their history and culture. There was a consensus to make that contact as the next step.

Executive Session. At 8:50pm a motion passed unanimously (Schuyler/Lawrence) to go to an executive session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(5), regarding the potential acquisition of property for public use. Councilman Gerlach and Ms. Franklin departed.

Adjournment: At 9:42pm and upon closing the executive session, a motion to adjourn was approved unanimously (Schuyler/Lawrence).

Minutes recorded by Plunkett